

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) An operation control method for a tandem press line in which a work transportation device is disposed between a press apparatus on an upstream side and a press apparatus on a downstream side which are adjacent to each other, the method comprising:

controlling operation of the press apparatus on the downstream side based on a signal in accordance with operation of the press apparatus on the upstream side;

controlling operation of the work transportation device in a work carrying-out section in a vicinity of the press apparatus on the upstream side based on a signal according to the operation of the press apparatus on the upstream side;

controlling operation of the work transportation device in a work carrying-in section in a vicinity of the press apparatus on the downstream side based on a signal according to the operation of the press apparatus on the downstream side;

controlling operation of the work transportation device in a work transporting section between the work carrying-out section and the work carrying-in section based on a signal generated by an oscillator of the work transportation device; and

controlling the signal generated by the oscillator so as to gradually decrease a deviation between the signal generated by the oscillator and the signal according to the operation of the press apparatus on the downstream side.

14. (New) The operation control method for a tandem press line according to claim 13, further comprising:

storing predetermined indication values representing a slide position of the press apparatus on the downstream side in association with a slide position of the press apparatus on the upstream side;

detecting indication values representing a slide position of the press apparatus on the downstream side and a slide position of the press apparatus on the upstream side;

determining a corresponding indication value for the press apparatus on the downstream side on the basis of the detected indication value of the press apparatus on the upstream side; and

controlling the operation of the press apparatus on the downstream side such that the detected indication value for the press apparatus on the downstream side is identical to the determined corresponding indication value for the press apparatus on the downstream side.

15. (New) The operation control method for a tandem press line according to claim 13, wherein each press apparatus is continuously operated.

16. (New) The operation control method for a tandem press line according to claim 13, further comprising:

controlling a speed of a motor provided for the press apparatus on the downstream side when the operation of the press apparatus on the downstream side is controlled.

17. (New) A tandem press line in which a work transportation device is disposed between a press apparatus on an upstream side and a press apparatus on a downstream side which are adjacent to each other, comprising:

a press controlling section operable to control operation of the press apparatus on the downstream side on the basis of a signal in accordance with operation of the press apparatus on the upstream side; and

a work transporting control section operable to control operation of the work transportation device in a work carrying-out section in a vicinity of the press apparatus on the upstream side on the basis of a signal in accordance with the operation of the press apparatus on the upstream side,

the work transporting control section being further operable to control operation of the work transportation device in a work carrying-in section in a vicinity of the press apparatus on the downstream side on the basis of a signal in accordance with the operation of the press

apparatus on the downstream side,

the work transporting control section being further operable to control operation of the work transportation device in a transporting section between the work carrying-out section and the work-carrying in section on the basis of a signal generated by an oscillator of the work transportation device,

the work transporting control section being further operable to control the signal generated by the oscillator so as to gradually decrease a deviation between the signal generated by the oscillator and the signal according to the operation of the press apparatus on the downstream side.

18. (New) The tandem press line according to claim 17, further comprising a press control section operable to store predetermined indication values representing a slide position of the press apparatus on the downstream side in association with a slide position of the press apparatus on the upstream side, wherein

the press control section is operable to detect indication values representing a slide position of the press apparatus on the downstream side and a slide position of the press apparatus on the upstream side,

the press control section is operable to determine a corresponding indication value for the press apparatus on the downstream side on the basis of the detected indication value for the press apparatus on the upstream side, and

the press control section is further operable to control the operation of the press apparatus on the downstream side such that the detected indication value for the press apparatus on the downstream side is identical to the determined corresponding indication value for the press apparatus on the downstream side.

19. (New) The tandem press line according to claim 17, wherein each of the press apparatuses is continuously operated.

20. (New) The tandem press line according to claim 17, wherein the press control section is further operable to control a speed of a motor provided for the press apparatus on the downstream side.

21. (New) A work transportation device for a tandem press line comprising a work transfer section disposed between a press apparatus on an upstream side and a press apparatus on a downstream side which are adjacent to each other among a plurality of press apparatuses, and a control section operable to control operation of the work transfer section, wherein

the control section is operable to control operation of the work transportation device in a work carrying-out section in a vicinity of the press apparatus on the upstream side on the basis of a signal in accordance with operation of the press apparatus on the upstream side,

the control section is operable to control the operation of the work transportation device in a work carrying-in section in a vicinity of the press apparatus on the downstream side on the basis of a signal in accordance with operation of the press apparatus on the downstream side,

the control section is operable to control the operation of the work transportation device in the work transfer section on the basis of a signal generated by an oscillator of the work transportation device, the work transfer section being between the work carrying-out section and the work carrying-in section, and

the control section is operable to control the signal generated by the oscillator so as to gradually decrease a deviation between the signal generated by the oscillator and the signal according to the operation of the press apparatus on the downstream side.